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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT OF

Jimenez et al.

Appln. No.: 09/852,051

Filed: May 10, 2001

Title: STRAIGHT EDGE

Group Art Unit: 2859

Examiner: Tania C. Courson

Atty. Ref.: 81427-278455

#12/ Declaration
Answer
6/9/03

* * * * *

DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.131

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22312-1450

Sir:

1. We, the below signed declarants, hereby declare and state that we conceived the invention of the above-identified application as set forth below in paragraphs 3-5 of this declaration, prior to January 25, 2001 and were diligent in our actions supporting the filing of the above-identified application with the U.S. Patent Office on May 10, 2001.

2. Attached as Exhibit A is an eight page Invention Disclosure Form that was prepared and completed prior to January 25, 2001 and that discloses the invention of the above-identified application as set forth below in paragraph 3-5.

3. Exhibit A discloses, among other things, a guiding device, comprising: an elongated finger-resting surface; an elongated, upstanding section projecting upwardly from the finger-resting surface, an elongated scale-supporting section coupled to and extending along the upstanding section with the upstanding section being positioned between the scale-supporting section and the finger-resting surface, the scale-supporting section being inclined with respect to a guiding device supporting surface; and an elongated first scale made of metal and having a lower surface and an upper surface, the lower surface being rigidly and unreleasably attached to the scale-supporting section and the upper surface having first indicia to indicate predetermined lengths along the first scale, and the finger-resting surface

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permitting fingers of a user gripping the guiding device to be positioned on the finger-resting surface while being protected from an implement by the upstanding section during movement of the implement along the guiding device adjacent the first scale, and wherein the finger-resting surface is substantially flat, and wherein the finger-resting surface, the upstanding section, and the scale supporting section are integrally formed as a unitary, one-piece element, and wherein the upstanding section is a wall having a first side facing the first scale and a second side facing the finger-resting surface, with the first side being inclined with respect to the scale-supporting section, and wherein the guiding device has a generally T-shaped cross-section, and wherein the upstanding section has a closed free end that contains no upwardly projecting openings, and further comprising a substantially flat contact surface positioned beneath the finger-resting surface, the upstanding section, and the scale supporting section to permit smooth application of the guiding device on the working surface.

4. Exhibit A further discloses a guiding device, comprising: an elongated, first portion having a finger-resting surface and a bottom surface opposite to the finger-resting surface; an elongated, second portion extending along the first portion, the second portion having an upstanding section and an inclined scale-supporting section, the upstanding section projecting upwardly from the finger-resting surface and having an uppermost free end, the upstanding section being positioned between the scale-supporting section and the first portions, the first and second portions having a generally T-shaped cross-section; and an elongated first scale having a lower surface rigidly and unreleasably attached to the scale-supporting section, an upper surface having first indicia to indicate predetermined lengths along the first scale, an innermost edge positioned closest to the free end of the upstanding section, and an outmost edge remote from the innermost edge, the bottom surface of the first portion being configured to be placed against a substantially flat working surface, and the upper surface of the first scale being inclined with respect to the working surface such that the innermost edge of the first scale is further from the working surface than the outermost edge of the first scale, and the finger-resting surface permitting fingers of a user gripping the guiding device to be positioned on the finger-resting surface while being protected from an implement by the upstanding section during movement of the implement along the guiding device, adjacent the first scale, and wherein each of the finger-resting surface and the first

bottom surface of the first portion is substantially flat, and the finger-resting surface is substantially parallel to the first bottom surface, and wherein the first portion and the second portion are integrally formed as a unitary, one-piece element, and wherein the first scale is metal, and wherein the upstanding section is a wall having a first side facing the first scale and a second side facing the finger-resting surface, with the first side being inclined with respect to the scale-supporting section, and wherein the upstanding section includes means for gripping the upstanding section by fingers of a user of the guiding device.

5. Exhibit A still further discloses a guiding device, comprising: an elongated finger-resting surface; an elongated upstanding section projecting upwardly from the finger-resting surface; an elongated scale-supporting section coupled to and extending along the upstanding section with the upstanding section being positioned between the scale-supporting section and the finger-resting surface, the scale-supporting section being inclined with respect to a guiding device supporting surface; and an elongated first scale having a lower surface and an upper surface, the lower surface being rigidly and unreleasably attached to the scale-supporting section and the upper surface having first indicia to indicate predetermined lengths along the first scale, and the finger-resting surface permitting fingers of a user gripping the guiding device to be positioned on the finger-resting surface while being protected from an implement by the upstanding section during movement of the implement along the guiding device adjacent the first scale, and wherein the upstanding section has a closed free end that contains no upwardly projecting openings.

6. The preparation of the attached Exhibit A and all acts and activity associated with the preparation of Exhibit A were carried out in the United States of America.

7. After preparation of Exhibit A, and prior to January 25, 2001, Exhibit A was provided to the patent department of The Stanley Works for forwarding to patent attorneys for preparation of the above-identified patent application.

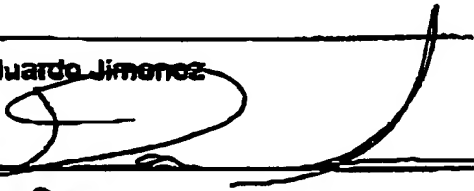
8. Each of the below signed declarants hereby declares that all statements made herein of each declarants' own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the patent.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature

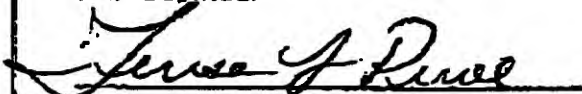
Date Signed

Eduardo Jimenez



5/6/03

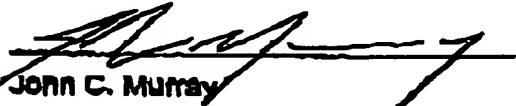
Dan Seymour



5/6/03

Terry Prive

Miguel Nistal



5/1/03

John C. Murray

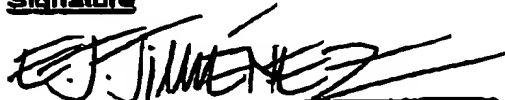
Attachment Exhibit A

8. Each of the below signed declarants hereby declares that all statements made herein of each declarants' own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the patent.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature

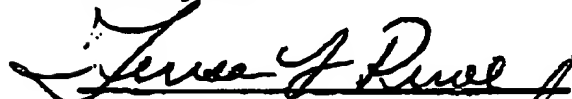
Date Signed



5/7/03

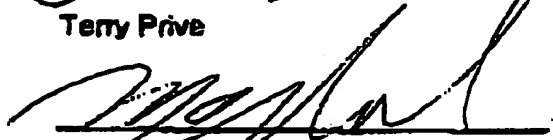
Eduardo Jimenez

Signature



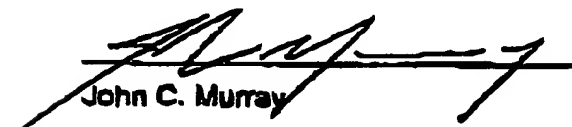
5/8/03

Terry Prive



5/6/03

Miguel Nistal



5/1/03

John C. Murray

Attachment: Exhibit A

THE STANLEY WORKS

INVENTION DISCLOSURE FORM

TITLE OF THE INVENTION: **Straight Edge with Improved Usability**

State the problem that the invention seeks to solve or the deficiencies of the known prior art which are sought to be overcome (e.g., lack of functionality, performance deficiency, etc.):

1. Current straight edges are used for marking measurements and cutting materials (e.g. drywall, mat board, etc.). The profile of a straight edge is flat and rectangular shaped, making difficult for the user to hold down and grip during use.
2. Current straight edges have the marking(graphics) printed and/or molded on the surface. The printed straight edges have lesser durability because the ink tends to wear-out. The straight edges with molded markings(graphics) have lesser visual performance because after the ink wears out the markings are difficult to see.

DESCRIPTION (Describe the best known form of the invention, showing its construction and operation. Describe the purpose and advantages of the invention. Attach drawings and/or other supporting documentation as necessary. If existing drawings are only conceptual in nature, they should be enhanced to represent a presently contemplated, fully working embodiment, even if subsequent development may result in significant changes.):

1. A non-rectangular shaped profiled straight edge such as this new design can increase its performance by allowing the user to grip and hold the device firmly and with less effort (page 6). This new profile is describe as a T-shaped profile. (See image 1-6, concepts 1-6 and drawing on page 8) . The device has increment markings(graphics) on both sides. It's shape allows for easy edge markings (page 6).
2. A coated(Mylar, Lacquer or Nylon) metal ruler on to a straight edge combines the best of two products into one. The coated metal ruler(s) provides a superior protection compared to the printed markings and graphics on a current straight edge. The ruler will be assembled onto one a straight edge resulting in a unique and long lasting straight edge.
3. Standard measurement indicator: This feature provides the user with a quick read of standard measurement used by carpenters, electricians, etc. E.G. heights for electrical outlet, light switch, door knob, counter top, desk/table top, etc.(page 7)

Conception date: _____ First drawings date: _____ First written description date: _____
 First oral disclosure date _____ Location _____ To whom _____

Identify the stage of any product design and development efforts, including any models, prototypes, samples, experiments, tests, plans, project team participants, involvement of third parties and the dates thereof:

This product is in a concept development phase. About 20 design variations have been created and 5 models have been made.

The project team is composed of Miguel Nistal, Terry Prive, Dan Seymour, John Murray and Eduardo Jimenez.

INVENTOR(S): (attach additional sheets if necessary)

Name (PRINT): **Eduardo J. Jimenez** Signature E. J. Jimenez Date _____
 Citizenship: **USA** Home Address: **87 Deepwood Drive, Avon, CT 06001**

Name (PRINT): **Dan Seymour** Signature Dan Seymour Date _____
 Citizenship: **USA** Home Address: **196 E. Chippens Hill Rd., Burlington, CT 06013**

Name (PRINT) **Terry Prive** Signature Terry Prive Date _____
 Citizenship: **USA** Home Address: **42 Tallwood Drive, Southington, CT 06489**

Name (PRINT) **Miguel Nistal** Signature Miguel Nistal Date _____
 Citizenship: **USA** Home Address: **67 Fox Hollow, Avon, CT 06001**

Two (2) witnesses who have been explained and understand invention
 Name (PRINT) **Jo Mart ne** Signature Jo Mart ne Date _____

Name (PRINT) **J hn H ward** Signature John Howard Date _____

Attached # of sheets _____ (_____ sheets drawings; _____ sheets written description)

EXHIBIT A

John Murray	Senior Project Engineer
Daniel S ymuor	Product Engineer
Gary vanDeursen	Director - Industrial Design
John Howard	Industrial Design Manager
Eduardo Jimenez	Sr. Industrial Designer

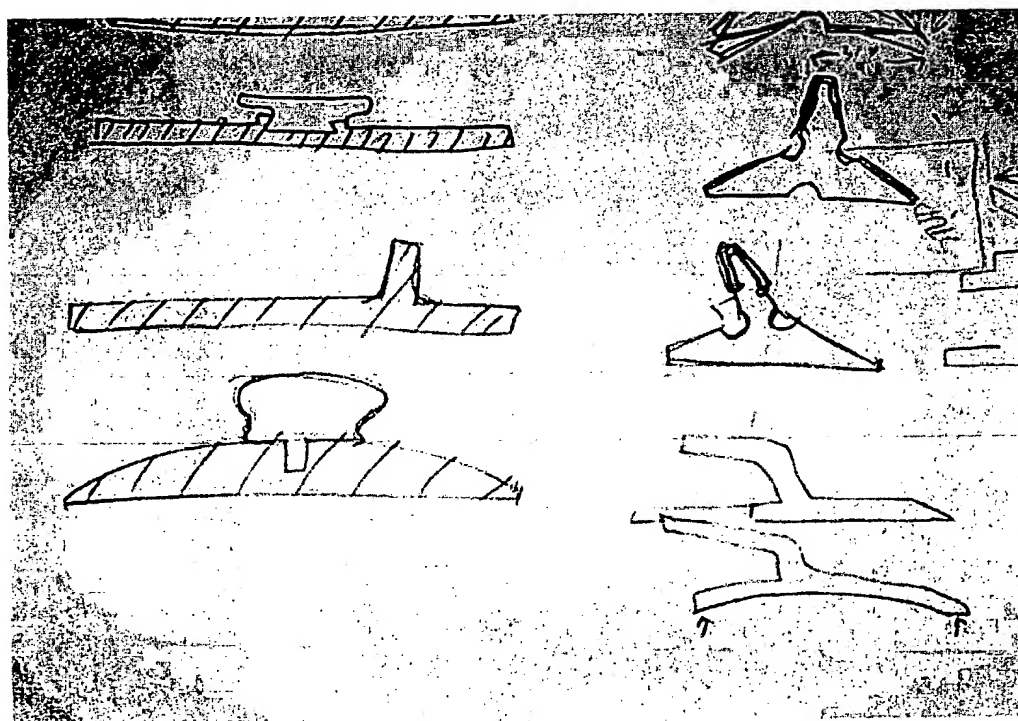
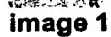


Image 2

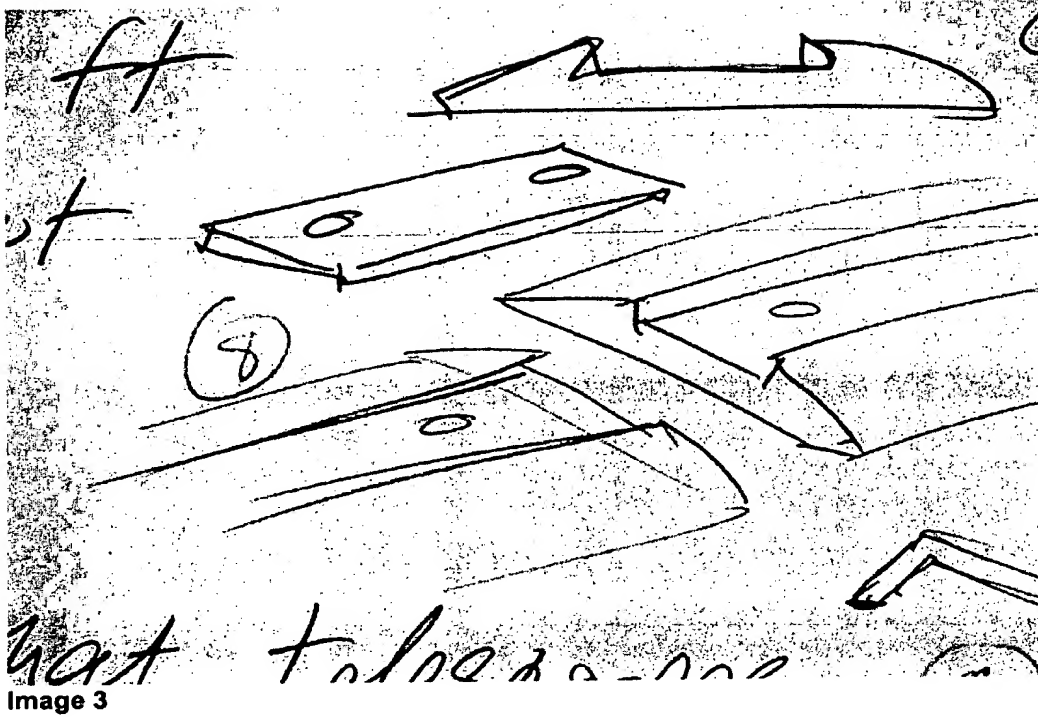


Image 3

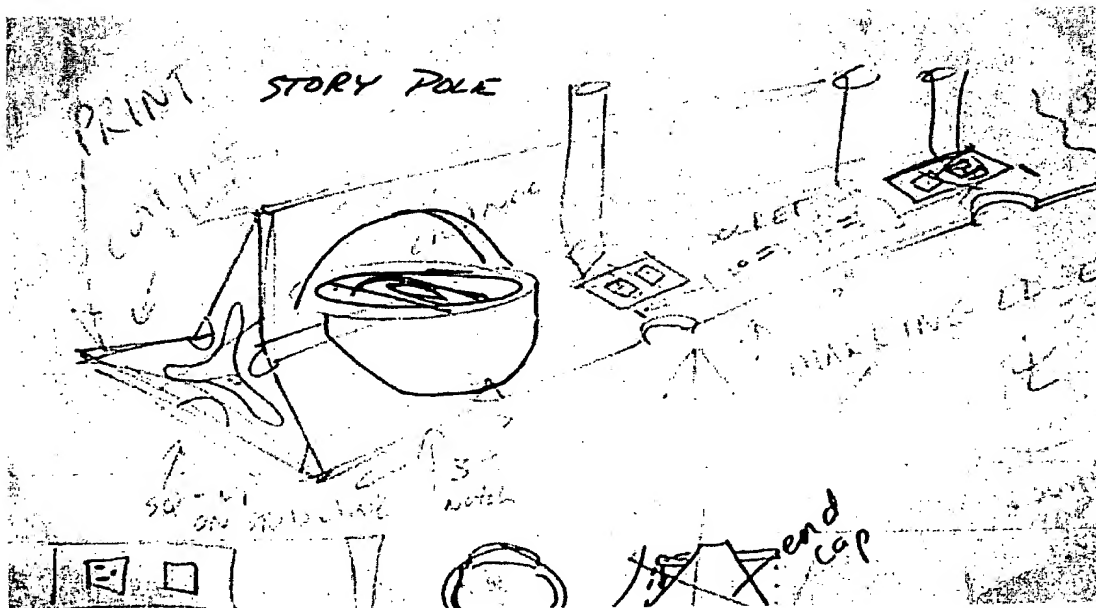


Image 4

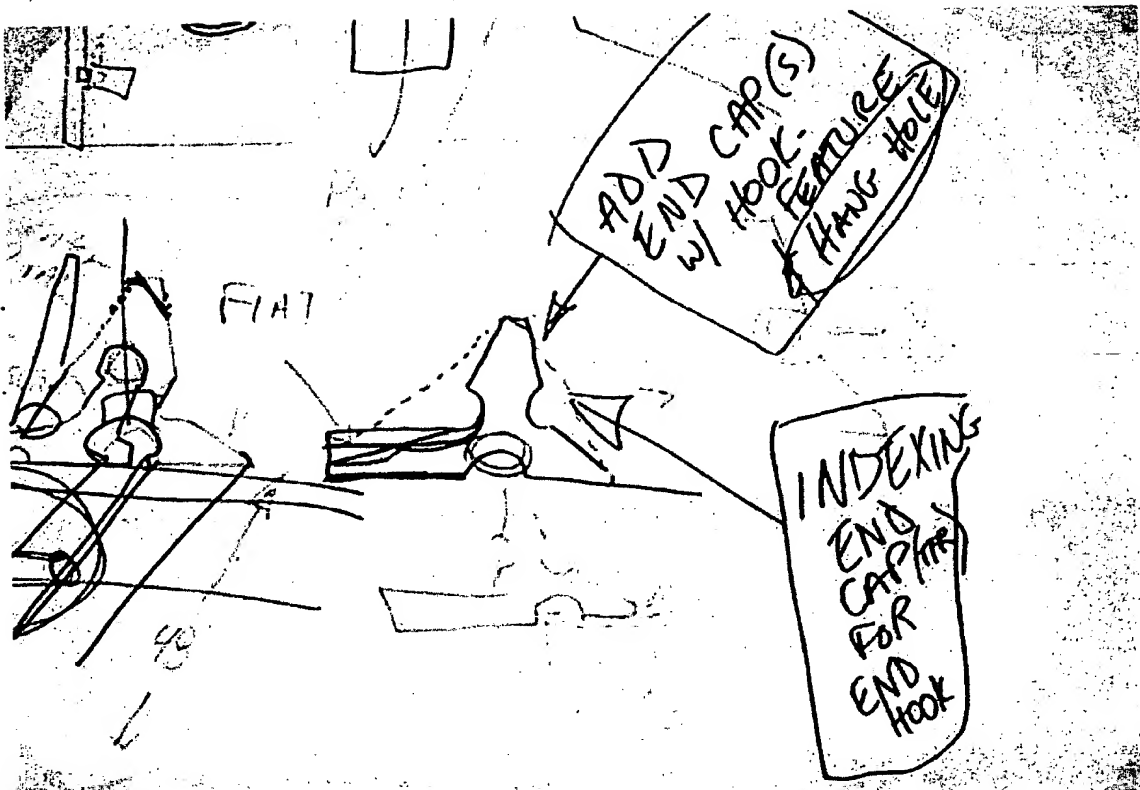


Image 5

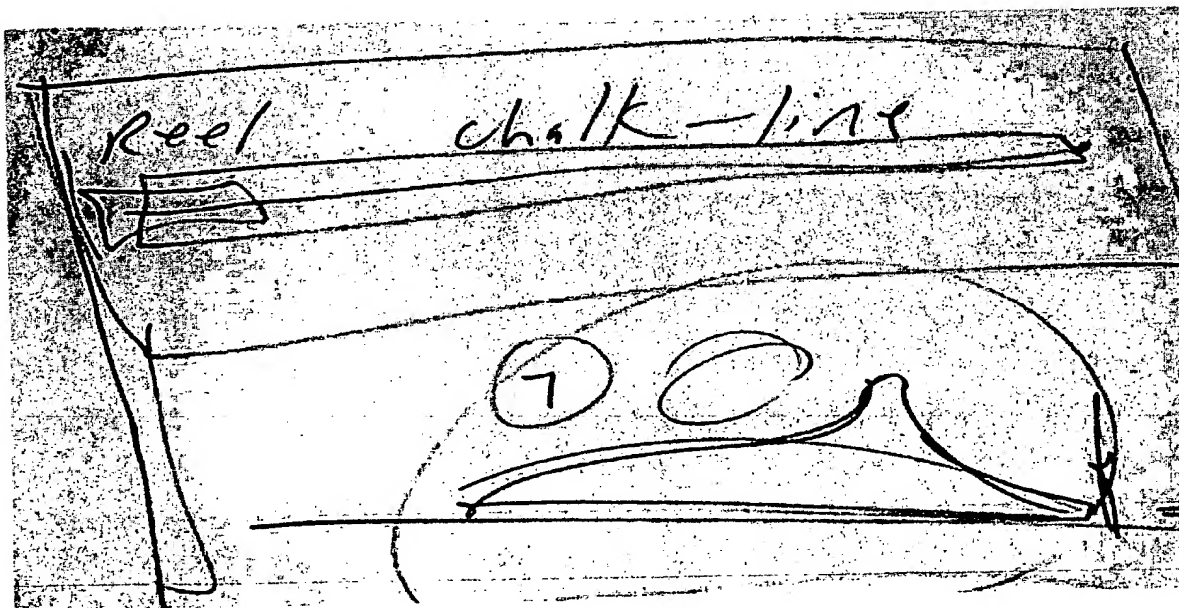
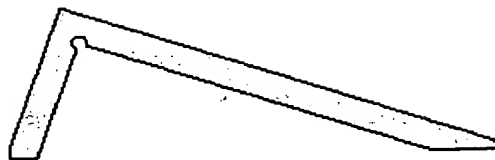


Image 6

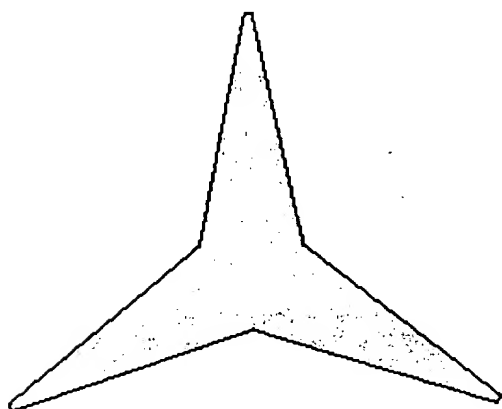
MORE CONCEPT PROFILES



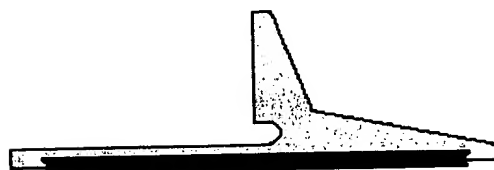
concept 1



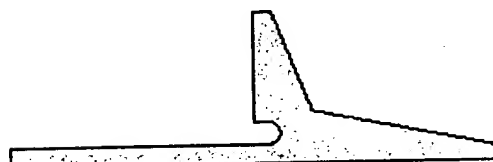
concept 2



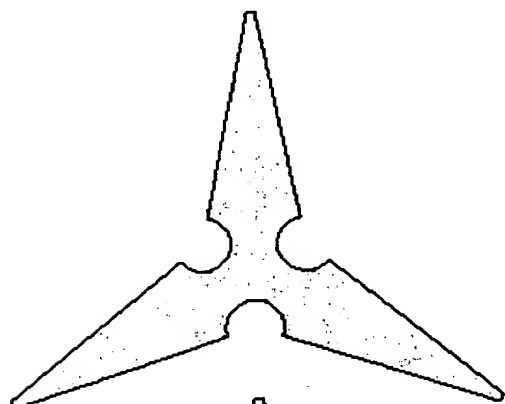
concept 3a



concept 4a



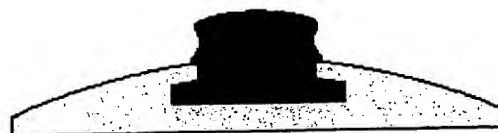
concept 4b



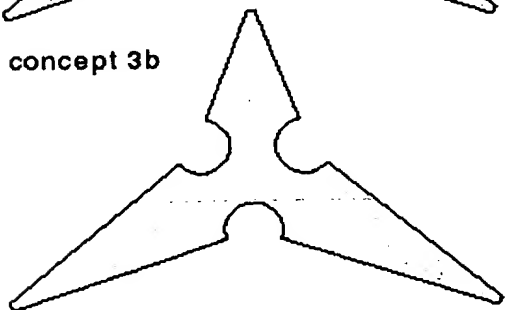
concept 3b



concept 5a



concept 5b



concept 3d



concept 6

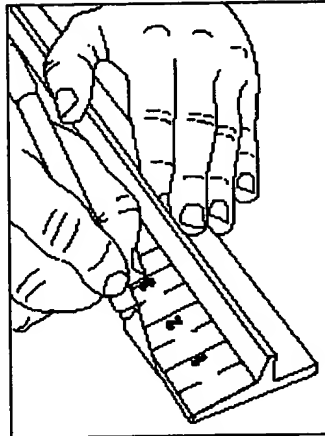
USER BENEFITS AND PRODUCT FEATURES

▶ **tape ruler blade
for accuracy &
long life**

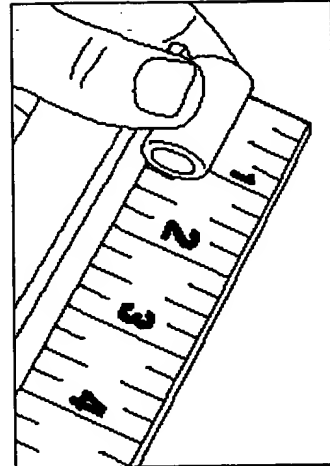
▶ **Mylar coted
balde**

▶ **easy to read
graphics**

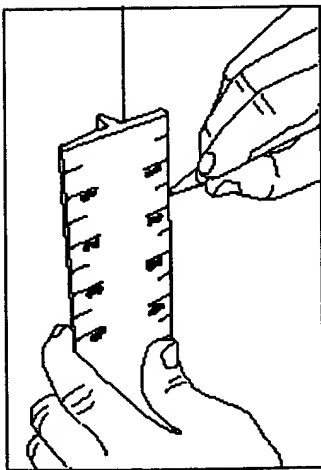
▶ **double sided
measuring**



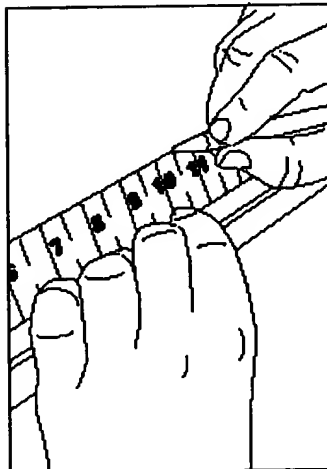
▶ **Center wall
protects fingers
while using a
knife**



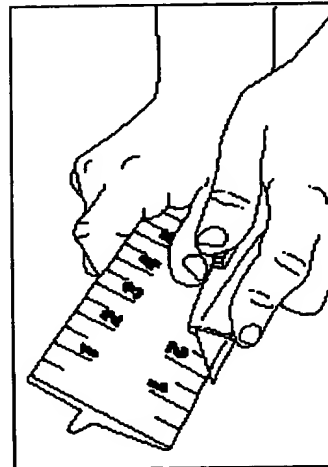
▶ **ideal for
measuring small
parts**



▶ **Ideal for edge
markings**

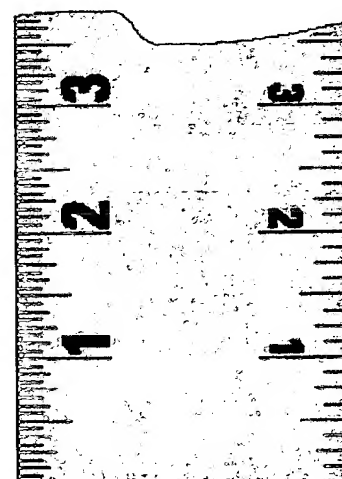
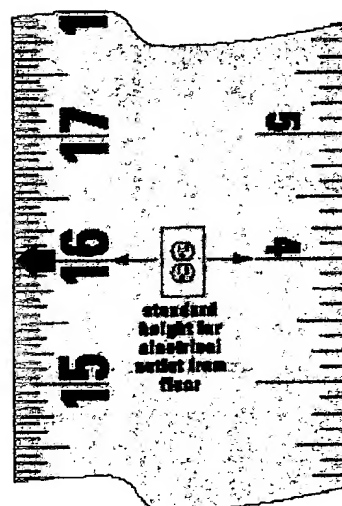
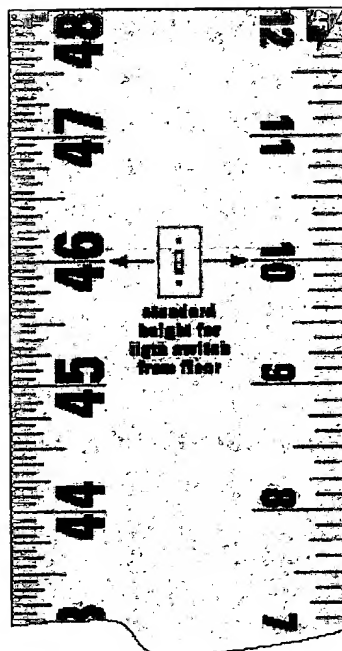


▶ **easy to grip
profile**

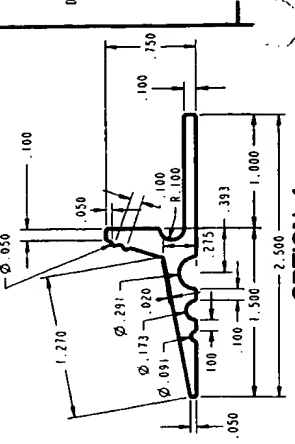


STANDARD MEASUREMENT INDICATOR

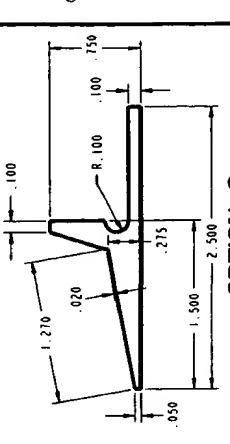
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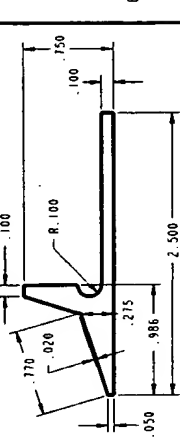
REV.	BY	DATE	DESCRIPTION



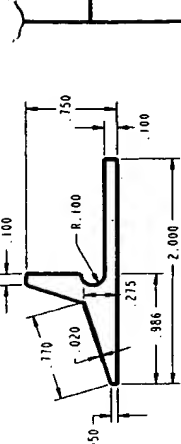
OPTION 1



OPTION 2



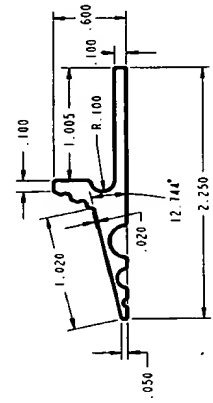
OPTION 3



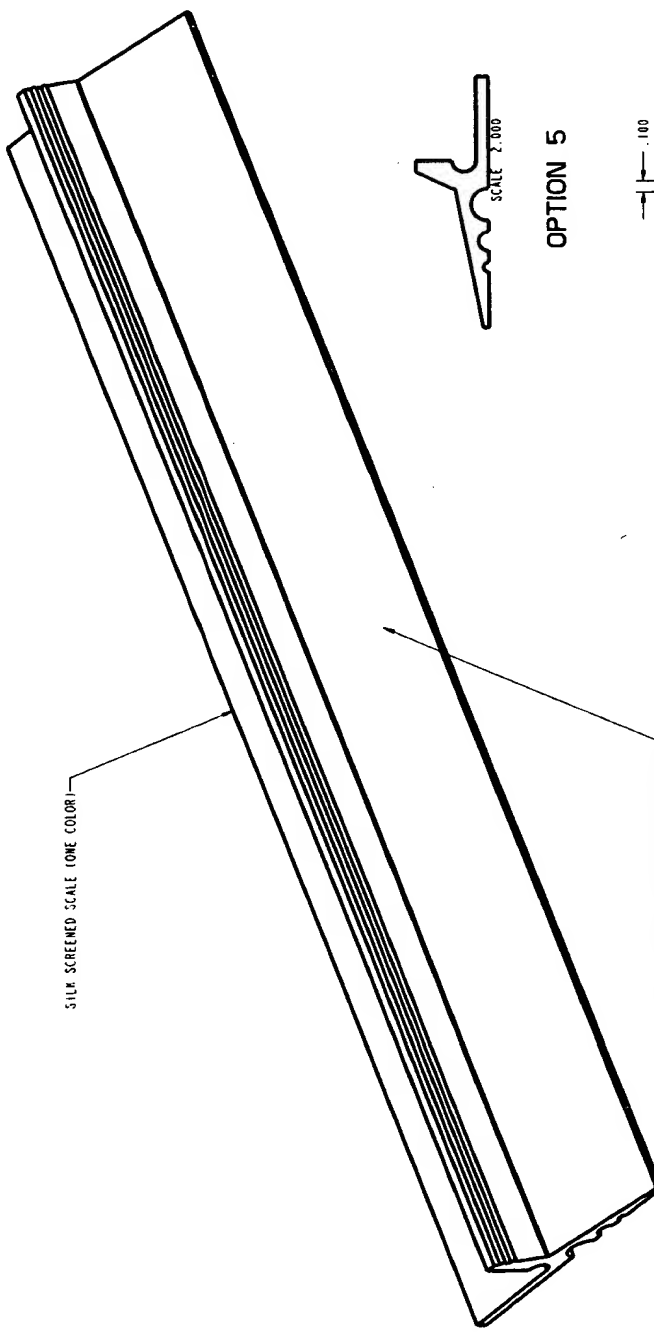
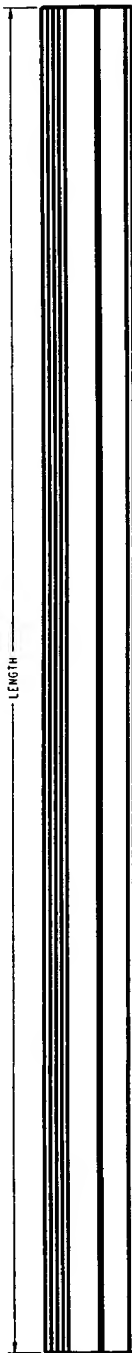
OPTION 4



OPTION 5



OPTION 6



PART NUMBER	LENGTH	COLOR
XXXX-XX	24"	CLEAR ANODIZE
XXXX-XX	48"	CLEAR ANODIZE
XXXX-XX	24"	CHARCOAL GRAY
XXXX-XX	48"	CHARCOAL GRAY

STANLEY
PRODUCT GROUP

ITEM NO. 6663 TS
REV. 1
DATE 8-78
DESIGNED BY
DRAWN BY
CHECKED BY
APPROVED BY

ALUMINUM 6063 T5
ANODIZED
FINISH

STANLEY
PRODUCT GROUP

ITEM NO. 6663 TS
REV. 1
DATE 8-78
DESIGNED BY
DRAWN BY
CHECKED BY
APPROVED BY

2